

# Inside Seven

JULY 1999

CALTRANS DISTRICT 7 EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## Employees At Equipment "ROADEO" Ride Again!



Competitors at "Roadeo" get ready for the truck plow course competition.

Many skillful and adept Maintenance employees "rode" again this year as they tested their proficiency and expert abilities in the operation of various maintenance equipment at the Southern District's Maintenance Equipment "Roadeo." Seaside Park at the Ventura County Fairgrounds was home this year to the June 5 event, which brought some 35 experienced maintenance employees together for a day of friendly rivalry.

An equipment "roadeo" is a series of competitive events in several categories where men and women Maintenance workers using various road-

work equipment, test their skills and know-how against each other in a fun and friendly atmosphere. The primary objective of the program is to promote personal and operations safety, provide and motivate training, and recognize the admirable skills of Caltrans employees; as well as provide an opportunity for families to get together and become more involved in what highway maintenance is all about.

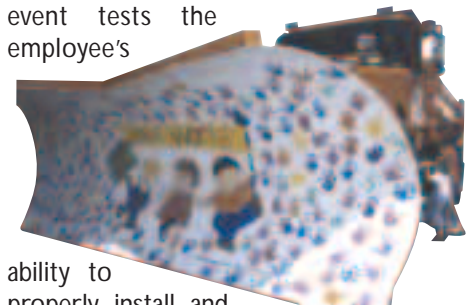
Participants arrived for the competition from Districts 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12. The Northern District also holds this event.

Employees, family members and friends gathered to cheer each other on as the workers vied for points and prizes. Scoring the events were supervisors and superintendents from local jurisdictions, as well as representatives from Headquarters. Points are awarded for highest proficiency coupled with the best overall time. The event fosters cam-

aderie and team spirit, while at the same time is spirited, challenging and provides additional training. Special belt buckles, jackets and certificates of accomplishment are awarded, and the top three finishers in each category go on to the state finals in Oakhurst. Top finishers from the state finals eventually move on to the national finals to be held in Colorado later this year.

Employees showed-off their expertise in a number of categories. They included: Truck Plow; Motor Grader; Backhoe; Chain-Off/Chain-On; Skip Loader; and Pre-Trip.

The Truck Plow is an event where a 10-wheeler truck with a snow plow is maneuvered through a course and backed into a simulated docking area. It also included moving cones with the snow plow. The Chain-off/Chain-on event tests the employee's



ability to properly install and remove a set of snow chains on a rear set of 10-wheeler truck tires in the fastest time. Other categories tested abilities in backhoe, motor grader and skip loader operation. All events require a great deal of competence and aptitude by the operators.

Bill Goodson, event coordinator, said "I would like to thank all of the people who volunteered to work at the "roadeo" and



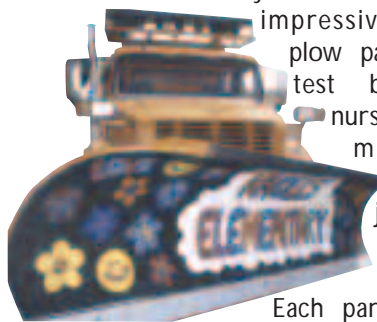
continued on page 2

# Roadeo

continued from page 1

all of the talented people who participated."

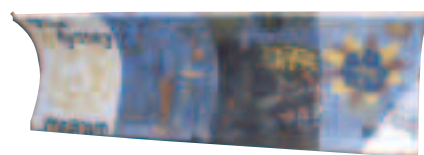
In addition to the "roadeo," a highlight of the day's activities was an impressive snow plow paint contest by local nursery, elementary and junior high schools.



Each participating school was given a truck with instructions to paint the snow plow portion only. Artistic and creative students wasted no time and came up with beautiful and imaginative paintings. Participants from the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley and Ventura County areas included: Rio Vista Elementary School, submitted a beach and mountain collage;



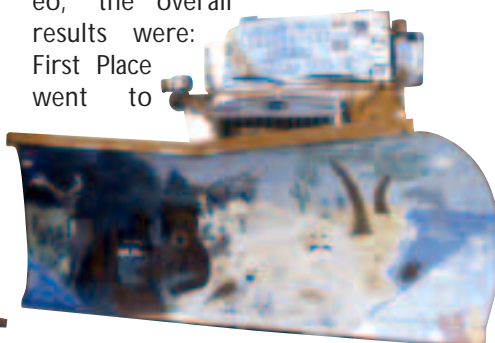
Espe Elementary School painted a train with landscaping; Mount Cross Pre-School submitted three paintings – some beautiful trees, a big dinosaur, and a flower garden; Moorpark High School, with a beach and surf scene; Piru Elementary School painted a big, blue whale; Frazier Park Elementary School submitted a road winding up beautiful mountains; Knolls Elementary School painted happy faces; Saint Mary's Catholic School had a space illustration;



Small World Nursery School, a handprint collage; Simi Valley High School painted a beach with palm trees; and the Odyssey Program with a colorful flower collage. The outstanding snow plow designs were enjoyed by all. It was indeed a treat for everyone to see first-hand how talented and creative the youngsters were, and how proud the kids were of their own creations. It made for a very exciting addition to the day's events. Each participating school received a Certificate of Recognition and a special Plaque of Appreciation. What a delightful and enjoyable way for the communities to get to know Caltrans, and for Caltrans to get to know the communities!

Assistant coordinator, Marvin Pruitt, said "I encourage everyone to get involved and join us next year. It was a great day enjoyed by all."

By the end of the memorable "roadeo," the overall results were: First Place went to



Eric Woods from District 6 with a total of 2,853 points; Second Place went to Henry Harris from District 7, with a total of 2,624 points; and Dale



Haun from District 7 came in Third Place with a total of 2,545 points. They will compete with top finishers from each District at the state finals in Oakhurst.

Congratulations! to the all winners who will compete in the state finals.

Everyone is encouraged

aged to attend next year's "roadeo."

There is no charge for admission.

A special thank you to the International Operating Engineers Union of Bargaining Unit 12, who sponsored the event and provided lunch and awards. And to all the skilled participants, thanks so much for a great day of Caltrans team spirit!







A historic El Camino Real bell graces beautiful Highway 101 in Ventura County.

## Guardians Of The Bells



When Santa Paula attorney, Joe O'Neill and his 88-year-old father-in-law, Loren Ayers, found a large, concrete bell on the corner of their ranch-style property one morning in May, 1998, it would not be an understatement to say they were puzzled. O'Neill thought he recognized the unique, cement bell as those he had seen while traveling along Highway 101, but was at a loss to explain how it got there, or especially, why. Too heavy to carry, he had to drag it to a safer location. Who left the 75-pound, historical landmark of the El Camino Real (Route 101) on their property is still a mystery today. But what O'Neill did about it, turned out to be the fulfillment of a promise he made to his dear father-in-law.

The history of the El Camino Real is as fascinating as the bells that adorn the famous and storied highway. Initially named Highway 2, El Camino Real or the "Royal Highway" was renumbered to Highway 101. The original intention of the 700-mile El Camino Real stretching near California's coast from San Diego to Sonoma, was to form a "line" connecting the missions from southern to northern California; and to memorialize and guide travelers to the 21 Spanish missions in

the early 1900's. A Santa Barbara historian and socialite, Mrs. A. S. C. Forbes, was instrumental in the establishment of the bells.

According to the Ventura County Historical Society's quarterly publication, *Marking the Past*, at the April 1904 meeting of the Camino Real Association in Santa Barbara, the newly-selected executive board charged the Los Angeles section with two distinct assignments: to investigate the route of the El Camino Real, and to provide a distinctive emblematic and appropriate guide-post along this route....Initially only that part of the road passing through Los Angeles and Orange counties was researched. In the latter part of 1905, and 1906, the "road" was verified as far north as Sonoma County....One of these goals was to mark El Camino Real with some type of landmark." Thus, the birth of the El Camino Real bells.

The first series of bells was erected at the Plaza Church in downtown Los Angeles on August 13, 1906. The second bell was located at Mission San Diego. Fifty-four bells were placed south of Santa Barbara by 1910, when the project moved north. By 1911 the following bells were installed:

San Diego County:	75
Los Angeles County:	10
Orange County:	28
San Francisco City:	10
San Mateo County:	25

continued on page 4



## Equal Opportunity Corner

## Are You Protected From Age Discrimination?

By Cathi McMahon, Equal Opportunity Officer

America's workforce is aging. As workers stay on the job longer, they generally move up the compensation ladder, acquiring more benefits and higher salaries. They also become more expensive for employers to keep around. This has led to a problem for many older workers, who increasingly face layoffs and difficulties finding new jobs. Laws now afford some protection to older workers who face discrimination in the workplace.

The median age of workers nationwide in 1994 was 38 years. By the year 2005, the median age will be 41. The number of workers aged 55 and older is headed towards 22.2 million in 2005. While no fewer than 80 percent of baby boomers say they plan to work at least part time when they retire, according to an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) study, the number of older workers wanting and needing to work full- or part-time is likely to grow due to longer life expectancy, better health and fitness, and economic necessity. More of the population will continue to work through their sixties and early seventies.

The aging of workers has precipitated a dramatic rise in the cost of age discrimination litigation. In each of the past four fiscal years, age discrimination comprised about 20 percent of all discrimination charges filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission following race, sex and disability. On average, age discrimination settlements and jury awards are substantially higher than those awarded for sex discrimination or disability cases. According to the Jury Verdict Research Company, between 1988 and

continued on page 4



Dino Solis gets ready to repair the bell found by Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Ayers.

## Bells

*continued from page 3*

Alameda County:	23
Ventura County:	14
San Bernardino County:	18

Since 1911, over 300 bells have been added. At one time, over 450 bells graced El Camino Real. But they seemed to disappear as fast as they were placed. Today, less than 100 bells remain.

After O'Neill's bell was in a safe place, Ayers made O'Neill promise to take care of the bell, and not let it wind up in the junk yard or trash heap. True to his word, he made a call to the Oxnard Police Department. Three squad cars then showed up to take a look at the wayward bell. O'Neill said, "I'm sure my neighbors thought I was some kind of criminal." The police took custody of the bell, and when they determined the bell was an El Camino Real historical bell and was state property, they notified Caltrans Public Affairs. And when Caltrans was notified, the resident expert in El Camino Real bell repair, refurbishing and caretaking was immediately called into action. Dino Solis, Caltrans Maintenance Mechanic and resident "guardian of the bells," was on the

case.

In 1974, the state Legislature enacted a law making Caltrans legal guardian of the bells, and thus responsible for replacement of missing, damaged or destroyed bells. The original bells were made out of brass or cast iron and weighed up to 100 pounds. Then Caltrans began constructing them from concrete to discourage theft. For replacement of bells, Solis developed a concrete, light gravel aggregate that is poured and set in a mold, dried, removed and then painted. The mold he uses is a concrete mold made from an original cast iron mission bell.

On the front of the bell are the dates "1769" and "1906." The dates refer to the founding of the first mission (San Diego) in 1769 and the placing of the first El Camino Real bell in Los Angeles in 1906.

When the historic bells are vandalized, broken, graffitied or otherwise in need of tender loving care, Solis is summoned. As the only Caltrans employee trained especially in this unique operation of historic bell restoration and renovation, Solis is responsible for the repair or casting of all replacement bells along El Camino Real. He also fabricates cement replicas for interested schools, churches and museums.

In addition to his bell work, Solis is a Maintenance Mechanic at the Camarillo Maintenance yard, where he performs air

conditioning work, plumbing, carpentry and is a certified backflow prevention systems technician — a sort-of "do everything" man. "I do it all," said Solis. "And I work on the El Camino Real bells on an as-needed basis."

Sadly, Loren Ayers has since passed away. But O'Neill continues to move forward with the promise he made that day to his father-in-law: to take care of the bell. O'Neill said, "I hope some day the authorities make it a felony offense to steal these important, historical resources. Maybe it would deter people from stealing and vandalizing these important pieces of our State's rich history. And I hope the bell gets put back on the highway."

Dave Servaes, Maintenance Superintendent, West Region said, "It is always refreshing to come in contact with a citizen who did what was right."

Solis added, "The bell Mr. O'Neill found is in good shape, but the 'shepherd's crook' holder was cut and has to be fixed. But I can fix it; I've been doing this for over 18 years!" When the holder is repaired, the celebrated bell will be carefully placed back onto the legendary El Camino Real where it belongs.

The El Camino Real bells will continue to have a permanent home on California's famed Highway 101. That is, thanks to people who care about the state's rich heritage and diverse cultural and historical background; people like Joe O'Neill, Loren Ayers and Dino Solis, to name a few -- a few guardians of the bells.



This cast-iron bell was recently removed from Highway 101 at Kanan Road in Agoura due to construction. It will be refurbished and returned to the highway after roadwork is completed.

## EEO

*continued from page 3*

1995 people claiming age discrimination were awarded an average of \$219,000 compared to \$147,799 for race discrimination, \$106,728 for sex discrimination and \$100,345 for disability cases. Awards are very high because older workers, on average, receive higher salaries and benefits, and therefore, may be entitled to higher damage awards. Lennox Industries, First Union Corp., Westinghouse Electric and Continental Airlines are just a few of the large companies that have been accused of age discrimination. These companies chose to



settle their lawsuits rather than duke it out in a courtroom.

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) provides that workers who are 40 years of age or older are protected from employment discrimination based on age. Both employees and job applicants are protected under the ADEA. Under the ADEA, it is unlawful to discriminate against a person because of his/her age with respect to any term, condition, or privilege of employment -- including, but not limited to hiring, firing, promotion, layoff, compensation, benefits, job assignments and training. The ADEA applies to employers with 20 or more employees including state and local government. It also applies to employment agencies and to labor organizations, as well as to the federal government.

Many companies are becoming increasingly dependent on older workers. They realize that there are considerable bottom-line benefits in utilizing qualified older workers. Older workers are reliable, thorough, conscientious and dependable. They have fewer on-the-job accidents, miss less time than younger workers and are very diligent and careful in carrying out their assignments.

Employers that fail to wake up to age discrimination and age bias in the workplace could collectively spend millions of dollars in court-imposed fines, punitive damages and legal fees. In truth, everyone ages -- the pain of discrimination cuts across every line and no one is safe from becoming a victim. Preventing age discrimination and successfully managing an age-diverse workplace is a winning situation for everyone and has very real bottom-line implications. Benefits may include increased productivity and corporate profits. Older workers can be assets, not liabilities, to their employers. The older worker is wise, dedicated, loyal and ready for new growth and development.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please send articles, etc., for Inside 7 to Jeanne Bonfilio, Public Affairs, via e-mail by the 5th of each month to be considered for publication. All submissions are due to Graphic Arts for typesetting no later than the 15th of each month. For further information, please call 7-3630.

# Superior Accomplishment Award Recipients

Congratulations to the long list of recent Superior Accomplishment Award recipients listed below. Each exceptional employee was presented with a special plaque and a monetary award. Their dedication and hard work to Caltrans is an inspiration to us all. We thank them for their superior service to Caltrans.



From left: Tom Almany, Hector Bedolla, Kevin Kwan, Hugo Guzman, Philip Lozano, Forouzeh Moussavi, Robert Doria, Helen Hairapetian, Larry Wiering, Majid Ghamami, Clarita Leuterio, Yu-Ying Chu, Jack Jung, Tiffany Hong, Charles Chlipala, Xerxes (Shay) Banduk, Vincent Pang, Quint Alfafara and Benny Diwa.

**Hamid Saadatnejadi,**  
*Senior Transportation Engineer*  
**Charles Strand,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range C*  
**Quint Alfafara,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range C*  
**Charles Chlipala,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range D*  
**Xerxes (Shay) Banduk,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range C*  
**Jack Jung,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range C*  
**Robert Carl Doria,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range D*  
**Clarita Leuterio,**  
*Delineator*  
**Larry Wiering,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range D*  
**Helen Hairapetian,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range C*  
**Forouzeh Moussavi,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range C*  
**Jose Hector Bedolla,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range B*  
**Kevin Kwan,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range A*  
**Benny Diwa,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range D*  
**Tiffany Hong,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range D*

**Yu-Ying Chu,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range D*  
**Majid Ghamami,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range C*  
**Philip Lozano,**  
*Transportation Engineering Technician*  
**Hugo Guzman,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range A*  
**Bipin Patel,**  
*Transportation Engineer, Civil, Range B*  
**Vincent Pang,**  
*Student Assistant*  
**Gary Iverson,**  
*Associate Environmental Planner*  
**Fouad Abdelkerim,**  
*Associate Transportation Engineer*  
**Cathy Wright,**  
*Senior Environmental Planner*  
**Bob Houle,**  
*Retired, Associate Supervisor of Surveys*  
**Bill Boughner,**  
*Associate Transportation Planner*  
**David Sosa,**  
*Associate Transportation Planner*  
**Paul Perez,**  
*Associate Transportation Planner*  
**Herb Kiyabu,**  
*Associate Transportation Planner*  
**Le Anne Williams,**  
*Senior Transportation Planner*



# Quality Corner

Caltrans THE LEADER IN QUALITY TRANSPORTATION

By Vincent Moreno

**Q**uality in Caltrans (QIC) has made its mark for all District 7 personnel to participate in. The Division of Planning has had success utilizing the QIC philosophy with positive results.

The Division of Planning, headed by Office Chief, Raja Mitwasi, created several quality teams to improve the process of a great division into a consistent, excellent division. The selection of Elhami Nasr as the District QIC Coordinator established the division's commitment to follow through with the implementation of using QIC. The division has received recognition from Headquarters for their efforts in implementing the District's strategic plan using statewide QIC efforts.

Coordinated by Terry Blank, Planning's teams include: GIS Quality, led by Wilford Melton; Environmental Planning, led by Cleave Govan; Local Development, led by Steve Buswell; Soundwall Strategy, led by Jamal El Jamal; Improvement of Quality Service to the Customers of Public Transportation, led by Elhami Nasr; and finally, The System Planning Quality Team, led by Bill Mosby. These varied teams are an indication of the division's commitment to QIC.

With the onset of QIC, there was a belief that it might not be possible for improving a great organization, but there have been some differences that have contributed to the already great organization of Caltrans to become even better.

With recent changes in SB-45, Caltrans has had to do business with various changes along the way. For instance, focus on the route concept report. Once it was solely an internal document that informed only those concerned on working with it, now it can be used as a menu of choices for elected officials to use in long range planning issues.

Project Initiation Documents (PID's) that used to have the basic information now read like a well-written novel that flows with great detail. PID's now include details not just about a soundwall, but a soundwall that pleases the eye, as well as mitigates noise.

Or how about good old customer service? The Office of Public Transportation is certainly working out a great amount of details with public, private and local agency partnerships. Jim McCarthy, District 7's Office Chief of Public Transportation, Rail and Stormwater cited recent examples of extraordinary customer service. He cites the following: "...completion of the latest segment of the Red Line to Hollywood, negotiations for a cooperative agreement for new ramps at Universal City station specifically for this segment of the Red Line, and the continuation of partnerships with local agencies with close to 100 social service agencies to provide transportation services to their clients."

QIC is accountability, responsibility and detailed work. If an example of "detail" is unclear, let's look at the Environmental Planning process. "Community cohesion," states Cleave Govan. No better example could be made than the Calabasas Interchange project on the 101 Freeway in the city of Calabasas. "QIC compels us to focus on a product above and beyond a standard that is legally founded and gives us the ability to follow through with the implementation of our ideas while being aware of historical sites, such as the Leonis Adobe. Here is a great example of a product with the QIC ethic and philosophy influencing a division's action to do a better job and deliver a better product," he said. By the way, Environmental was recognized by the Minneapolis Department of Transportation for Caltrans' effort and work in this endeavor. Not only was this quality work appreciated locally, it seems to be viewed and heralded nationally with interest.

Steve Buswell, who lead the Local Development Review Task Force, cites team recognition for efforts to carry out the QIC philosophy, but more importantly, he recognizes that QIC is a learning, motivational, rewarding and enjoyable process. "Projects that we worked on concerned identifying increased traffic mitigation. Our job was to prepare actions for offsetting congestion generated by development. Utilizing the tools of QIC worked great with the internal team.

"Concurrence on the issues was rapid and well thought out. Our team assembled, "Stormed and Formed," and that carried over to the working relationship with

our local partners when the time came to sit down and work out the particulars. Not only were our partners happy to see that our Local Development unit fulfilled the obligations of the California Environmental Quality Act, but there seemed to be better overall communication during the working relationship."

Steve went on to say that "...\$3 million of right of way was identified as one example. There have been 20 recent projects that I can say have been greatly influenced by QIC when the "tools" of the philosophy are put into process. Our team improved in written and verbal skills as well as in meeting deadlines that were imperative to ensure a good working relationship with our partners." He said, "I can point out dollars identified that might not have been if we had looked at projects without the tools we now use with QIC. I would say a conservative dollar amount since QIC tools have been applied equates to over \$190 million.

"QIC seems to have an effect on all who participate in it. Consistently, there is a definite motivation in approaching tasks with a different outlook. Eliminating redundancy and looking forward to each project is a unique opportunity to make one's mark on is invigorating."

This proved to be true for the Local Development Review Team. The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, in the category of "Mapping the Quality Journey" recently honored them as an "Exemplary Partner" by giving them a national award with the highest score recorded this go-round.

In case you wanted to know, the score was 894.95 out of 1000 possible points! Not bad considering they also pocketed one District and two Headquarters Accomplishment Awards (included a Sustained Superior Award for Steve and the team members!)

District 7's Planning Division is proud to say that the Local Development Unit benchmarked its own survey, the new Annual Local Agency Survey" mailed by Caltrans Headquarters with some great results. Local Development has a 95% satisfaction rate and 100% of the respondents feel like they have a "District Focal Point Person." Not only is that commendable but is surely gives Caltrans District 7 the satisfaction of knowing that

*continued on page 7*

## Bits & Pieces.....

Several employees recently represented Caltrans when they participated in Long Beach City College's Non-Traditional Career Day. The event focused on career opportunities for women in "non-traditional" career fields such as construction, maintenance, architecture, engineering and electrical work. Representatives included Kirsten Stahl, District 7 Materials Engineer; Rachel Ruacho, Equipment Operator, West Region Maintenance sign crew; and Paula Durham, Senior Transportation Engineer. They distributed job information flyers, Internet access information material, District 7 fact sheets and other Caltrans handouts. Over 200 participants were in attendance. The event was informative and provided positive community outreach for Caltrans.

On May 24 an international team of nine college students in the fields of architecture, history of technology, landscape and architectural history arrived to begin documenting information on the Arroyo Seco Parkway (Route 110), California's first freeway, near South Pasadena for the Library of Congress. The district is funding this \$100,000 Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) project which will conclude on August 13, 1999.

The architects will produce a set of two dozen interpretive drawings showing the Arroyo Seco Parkway, and the historian will produce a 60-page report. Their final work on this engineering landmark will be available on the Library of Congress Internet site at the end of 2000.

Plans are in the works for a ceremony to be held this July in Highland Park so that Dr. Daniel S. Turner, President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) from Alabama can present a plaque to Caltrans naming the Arroyo Seco Parkway a "National Engineering Landmark."

## Quality

*continued from page 6*

a job-well-done is still a very important factor in our professional environment.

Raja Mitwasi thinks of QIC as "...a validation of hard work. He emphasizes to all staff that quality is a part of our daily job; it is a way for us to always work. It challenges the normal process which is a hundred years old; this tool invigorates this standard process and assists hard work to achieve a quality product." He said, "If our product is complete, efficient and appreciated, our customers are satisfied."

Quality in Caltrans works. Our mission is partnership. We don't do this because we have to, we use QIC to assist and mark continuous improvements in the way we will do business now and in the future.



Mr. Chuck Webster  
Department of Transportation  
23922 San Fernando Road  
Newhall, CA 91321

Dear Mr. Webster:

I just want to take a moment of your time to tell you what excellent service I received from one of your employees. Her name is Denise Grimes.

Denise was friendly and listened to what I had to say. Understanding how frustrated I was, she promised me the graffiti would be taken care of. By the end of the week, it was gone. I very much appreciated her prompt attention.

Today, I called Denise about some fallen tree branches behind my house on Caltrans property, and she was very helpful again. She repeated my concerns back to me when I was finished talking and promised to take care of everything as soon as possible.

I just wanted you to know that Denise is doing a good job, and that I appreciate her efforts very much.

Sincerely,  
Patrick A. Garcia  
Los Angeles

## Equipment Shop And Maintenance Shine At Media Event



*Caltrans converted equipment trailer is readied for media event.*

The Caltrans Equipment Shop 7 and Division of Maintenance came through with flying colors in assisting with an exciting media event welcoming the President of Mexico on a recent visit to Southern California.

At the May 19 welcoming ceremony for President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon of Mexico at the Burbank Airport, Caltrans converted equipment trailers that were used as a speech platform, as well as a staging area for the media to set up their cameras. They also provided vehicles to assist in transporting delegates of Governor Davis' staff. When Caltrans Director, Jose Medina arrived, he greeted the Caltrans employees and said the site "looked good."

Alex Cajina, Highway Equipment Superintendent III; Bill Goodson, Maintenance Equipment Coordinator; Rodney Jones, Highway Equipment Supervisor; and the Caltrans Equipment Shop 7 were responsible for making modifications to the trailers. North, East and South Maintenance Regions assisted with vans and drivers used at the event. Dave Mahon, Timothy Neal, Greg Pittser and Christopher Salter of Shop 7 also lent their support at the ceremony.

Great work, Equipment Shop and Maintenance! Thank you for making Caltrans shine!



*Additional Caltrans vans on the scene waiting to assist, as President of Mexico's plane lands at Burbank Airport.*



# Cultural Cuisine

## SUMMER FRUIT FUN

### HOMEMADE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES

1 quart fresh strawberries, sliced  
One-half cup sugar  
One-third cup shortening  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons sugar  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
Three-fourths cup milk  
Margarine or butter, softened (optional)

Mix strawberries and one-half cup sugar. Let stand 1 hour.  
Heat oven to 450 degrees. Cut shortening into the flour, the 2 tablespoons sugar, the baking powder and salt with a pastry blender or use fingers until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Stir in milk just until blended. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface.  
Gently smooth into a ball. Knead 20 to 25 times. Roll one-half inch thick. Cut with a floured 3-inch cutter. Place about one inch apart on ungreased cookie sheet.  
Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Split crosswise while hot. Spread with butter or margarine, if desired. Fill and top with strawberries. Top with homemade whipped cream. Makes about six servings.

Note: Cut shortcakes into different shapes with cookie cutters just for fun, such as hearts or diamonds. You can substitute strawberries for any fresh, seasonal berries you like!

### HOMEMADE WHIPPED CREAM

For 1-1/2 cups whipped cream:  
Beat three-fourths cup whipping (heavy) cream and two tablespoons granulated or powdered sugar in chilled bowl until stiff. Delicious!

### EASY CHERRY CLAFOUTI DESSERT

1/2 cup all-purpose flour	3 eggs
1/4 cup granulated sugar	1 cup milk
2 cups pitted dark sweet cherries	1 teaspoon vanilla
Powdered sugar	

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 8" square baking dish. Beat eggs, milk, flour, granulated sugar and vanilla until smooth. Spread cherries in dish. Pour batter over cherries. Bake 45-50 minutes or until puffed and golden brown. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and home-made whipped cream, if desired. Serve warm. Makes about six servings.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 7 Caltrans to assist City of Pasadena with a media event to celebrate completion of 32 new wheelchair ramps at overpasses along Routes 210 and 710.
- July 10 Caltrans to assist with traffic management at Women's Soccer World Cup match at Rose Bowl in Pasadena.
- July 22 Senator Kevin Murray's Town Hall Meeting in Culver City to discuss various projects planned for I-405 between I-10 and Route 90.
- July 23 Ceremony in Highland Park to celebrate the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) naming the Arroyo Seco Parkway (110) a "National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark."
- July '99 High-Desert Corridor Study public meetings.

## Inside Seven

EDITOR ..... JEANNE BONFILIO  
MEDIA RELATIONS CHIEF .. MARGIE TIRITILLI  
STAFF WRITERS ..... PAT REID  
..... IVY ESTRADA  
GRAPHIC SERVICES ..... MONICA MURILLO  
PHOTOGRAPHY ..... STEVE DeVORKIN  
PRINTING ..... GRAPHIC SERVICES  
DISTRIBUTION ..... IRMA LOPEZ



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DISTRICT 7 • MEDIA RELATIONS / PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
120 SOUTH SPRING STREET • ROOM 100  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 897-4867 • FAX (213) 897-3674  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/>

GRAY DAVIS  
Governor

MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET  
Secretary - Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

JOSÉ MEDINA  
Director - California Department of Transportation



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER